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Message Text

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65
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 IO-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAJ-01 ACDA-05 EB-07 ARA-06 SAM-01 /096 W
---------- 122963
P R 171817Z FEB 76
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6100
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY LAGOS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 1592

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, AO, BE
SUBJECT: ANGOLA: EC-9 POLITICAL CONSULTATION ON MPLA
RECOGNITION

1. ANGOLAN DESK OFFICER (VERKAMEN) GAVE US FEBRUARY 17
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(AFTER WIRE NEWS OF FRENCH RECOGNITION OF MPLA BORKE) FOLLOW-

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ING INTERESTING BACKGROUND:

2. FRENCH HAD INFORMED BRITISH FOREIGN SECRETARY CALLAHAN ON FRIDAY FEB 13 THAT FRANCE PLANNED TO RECOGNIZE MPLA IMMEDIATELY. VERKAMEN SAID UK ALERTED REST OF EC-9, AND GERMANS AND BELGIANS CALLED FOR EC-9 CONCULTATION AT AMBASSADORIAL LEVEL IN LUXEMBOURG LATE THAT SAME DAY. HE SAID EC-9 MEMBERS MADE STRONG PLEA THERE THAT FRENCH ABIDE BY OCTOBER 3, 1975 EC-9 FOREIGN MINISTER'S AGREEMENT TO CONSULT ON ANGOLA RECOG-NITION QUESTION AND URGED FRENCH TO POSTPONE UNILATERAL MOVE UNTIL POLITICAL DIRECTOR'S MEETING FEBRUARY 16-17. VERKAMEN SAID FRENCH AMBASSADOR TOLD COLLEAGUES HE COULD NOT REPLY SINCE HE WAS WITHOUT INSTRUCTIONS BUT WOULD REPORT TO HIS GOVERNMENT.

3. VERKAMEN SAID FRENCH ARGUMENTS FOR IMMEDIATE RECOGNITION WERE:
A. PRESIDENT GISCARD HAD BEEN URGED BY EX-FRENCH COLONIES IN WEST AFRICA (E.G. IVORY COAST, GABON) TO RECOGNIZE MPLA AT SAME TIME THEY DO;
B. TO WAIT ANY LONGER WOULD ENCOURAGE GUERRILLA WARFARE IN ANGOLA, WHICH IN TURN WOULD KEEP RUSSIANS AND CUBANS THERE LONGER.
WERKAMEN SAID DIRECTOR GENERAL DAVIGNON TELEPHONED FOREIGN MINISTRY AFTER FEBRUARY 16 SESSION OF POLITICAL DIRECTORS MEETING TO REPORT THAT NO DECISION HAD BEEN MADE ON MPLA RECOGNITION AT THAT SESSION. BELGIANS SUSPECT FRENCH FINALLY DECIDED TO GO IT ALONE WITHOUT INFORMING EC PARTNERS.

4. ZAIRE DESK OFFICER (JAENEN) TOLD US GOB HAS UNDER CONSIDERATION- BUT HAS NOT COME TO A DECISION- THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA TO GOVERN MPLA REOCGNITION DECISION:
A. BELGIUM SHOULD BE CLOSE TO LAST OF EC-9 TO RECOGNIZE BECAUSE OF ITS SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP TO ZAIRE:
B. SHOULD BE AFTER OR AT TIME AS ZAIRE;
C. IN ANY EVENT, SHOULD BE AFTER DEPARTURE OF ZAIRE FOREIGN MINISTER NGUZA AFTER FEBRUARY 18-19 MEETINGS WITH PRIME MINIS-TER AND FOREIGN MINISTER IN BRUSSELS.RENNER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: RECOGNITION, FORM OF GOVERNMENT, LIBERATION FRONTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BRUSSE01592
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760059-0447
From: BRUSSELS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760244/aaaabmsd.tel
Line Count: 98
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 MAR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26 MAR 2004 by ElyME>; APPROVED <03 AUG 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ANGOLA: EC-9 POLITICAL CONSULTATION ON MPLA RECOGNITION
TAGS: PFOR, AO, BE, EEC, MPLA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006